the last one decade through conferences/meetings with State Level Ministers/functionaries would help in achieving the purpose;

(c) if so, what is the time-frame; and

(d) whether a constitutional amendment will have to be resorted as seemed to be the general feeling in the December, 2004 Panchayati Raj Conference held in Jaipur?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In view of the uneven implementation of Part IX of the Constitution over the last 12 years since the passage by Parliament of the 73rd Constitution Amendment, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was created on 27 May 2004 with a view to promoting the accelerated and more even implementation, in letter and spirit, of the relevant Constitutional provisions, so as to more effectively visualize Gandhiji's goal of "Poorna Swaraj through Gram Swaraj". Between July 2004 and December, 2004 seven Round Tables were held with the Ministers of Panchayati Raj in the States where 18 dimensions of the Panchayati Raj were discussed. At the end of the seven Round Tables in December, 2004, about 150 recommendations were adopted by consensus. It is now expected that as they are themselves party to these conclusions, State Governments will now be implementing these Resolutions for strengthening the PRIs with all deliberate speed. As Panchayati Raj is a State subject, it is not possible to fix any time-frame, but the Ministry of Panchayati Raj will pursue the implementation of the agreed conclusions with each of the State Governments concerned. Particular attention will be paid to adherence to such time-lines as have been specified in the conclusions. In consultation with the State Governments, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj will continue its efforts towards fulfilling the dream of Mahatma Gandhi as set out in Part IX of the Constitution read with Article 243ZD of Part IX-A relating to district planning.

(d) No, Sir, nor was there any agreed conclusion at the Round Table in Jaipur that any further Constitutional amendment was required, although some suggestions to this effect were made during the deliberations.

Implementation of Panchayati Raj System in States

87. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panchayati Raj system is not implemented so far in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan or proposal to ensure the implementations of Panchayati Raj system in such States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to give such authority to panchayats so that they can develop resources and manage funds on their own and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Panchayati Raj system is being implemented in all the States/UTs to which Part IX of the Constitution applies, except for Jharkhand and Pondicherry where elections are still to be held. However, implementation is uneven. Therefore, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table meetings with State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved by consensus a set of around 150 points for action which have been put together in a Compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur. The Ministry have now initiated a process of visiting each of the States/UTs to review with the authorities concerned the progress in implementing the points for action contained in the Compendium. It is expected that this will accelerate the pace of implementation of the provisions of Part IX, read with Article 243ZD, of the Constitution and bring about greater conformity, in both letter and spirit, to the Constitutional provisions of Panchayati Raj in all States/UTs concerned.

(e) Article 243H of the Constitution provides powers to impose taxes by, and funds of, the Panchayats. It provides that the Legislature of a State may, by law—

(a) authorize a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate such